



BOROUGH OF ELLESMERE PORT



Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

FOR THE YEAR 1971

D. R. MORRIS,
M.B., Ch.B.DP.H.

E. TUFT,
F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



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Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1971

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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1971

To: THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF ELLESMERE PORT.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1971.

The corrected birth rate of 20.6 compares favourably with that for England and Wales (16.0).

The infant mortality rate of 18 is the same as that for England and Wales with 12 of these occurring within the first four weeks of age.

Of the infectious diseases Measles is by far the most frequently notified. The take up of preventive immunization against the condition remains at half that of other computer called inoculations.

I am pleased to report no infectious disease episode of note occurred during the year and notifications from general practitioners have been at a satisfactory low level. On the preventive side smallpox vaccination has been omitted from the immunisation schedule for infants, on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health and Social Services. All other immunisations remain unchanged with an uptake at a satisfactory level.

County Nursing Staff have undergone re-training in preparation for the computer-based Child Health programme, which begins in January 1972. The use of the County computer will enable health visitors and doctors to keep in touch with a much larger population than has been possible in the past. Previously the service has tended not to be used by sections of the population who really need it most.

An additional advantage of the computer is that it will be used to record children who are handicapped. This information can then be used by the Health Department to advise Education and Social Services Departments of the need for special facilities. In the past such information has not only been unreliable, but often arrived too late.

I think we can consider ourselves fortunate that Cheshire is one of the pioneers in the application of computers to screening. Every effort has been taken to protect the confidentiality of all information and that it will only be available in statistical form for Departments outside that of Health.

April 1st saw the introduction of the new Social Services Department and Ellesmere Port is part of the West Cheshire Division. Much work had to be done throughout the year to get the machinery working, and in this context the Health Department had a lot to contribute. The social aspects of disease are a significant feature of any illness and as future re-organisation of health takes place, mechanisms of close co-operation between the two Departments must be created. With this thought in mind it is pleasing to report that joint meetings between the local Departmental heads are taking place with a view to discussing mutual co-operation and obtaining ideas for integration and forward planning.

I wish to place on record my sincere thanks and appreciation for the co-operation of all members of the staff with whom I have had the pleasure of working and in particular my thanks go to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

D. R. MORRIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Population	61,830
Area (Acres) 1st April, 1971	9,802
Number of houses and flats in the area	19,623
Rateable Value (1st April, 1972)	£5,054,472
Sum represented by the Penny Rate (1972/73) Estimated	£51,500

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS
for the Year 1971

(Compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General)

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	616	568	1184
Illegitimate	47	45	92
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	663	613	1276

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	20.6
Local Adjusted Rate	17.5
Comparability Factor	0.85
Illegitimate live births as percentage of total live births ...	7.00%

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	9	13
Illegitimate	2	—	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	9	15

Total live and still births: 1,291	
Still Birth Rate 12.00 per 1,000 Live and Still Births.	
The average number of births per annum in the years 1956-70 was	1,049
Birth Rate, England and Wales 1971	16.0
Birth Rate, England and Wales 1970	16.0
Birth Rate, Administrative County of Cheshire 1970	16.3

TABLE OF NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS
AND BIRTH RATES 1962-71

Year	No.	Birth Rate	Year	No.	Birth Rate
1962	1099 . . .	23.82	1967	1127 . . .	21.04
1963	1138 . . .	24.16	1968	1195 . . .	21.75
1964	1125 . . .	23.34	1969	1109 . . .	19.5
1965	1042 . . .	21.05	1970	1269 . . .	21.8
1966	1130 . . .	22.09	1971	1276 . . .	20.6

DEATHS

Males 259 Females 196 Total 455

Death Rate 7.4 Corrected Death Rate 12.7 Comparability Factor 1.72
The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1956-70 was 380
Death Rate England and Wales: 11.6 per 1,000.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER
ONE YEAR OF AGE

	No.	Rate
All infants, per 1,000 live births	23	18.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	22	19.00
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	1	11.00
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	12	9.00
Deaths of infants under 1 week of age	10	8.00
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (Still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	19	22.00
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales		18.00
Death from Measles (All ages)		Nil
Death from Whooping Cough (All ages)		Nil
Death from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea		Nil
Death from Cancer (All ages)		121
Maternal Deaths (including Abortion)		Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births		Nil
Death from Heart Disease		157
Vascular Disease of Nervous System		50

TABLE OF INFANT MORTALITY 1962-70

Year	Rate per 1,000 births	Year	Rate per 1,000 births
1962	27.38	1967	28.00
1963	18.44	1968	20.92
1964	20.44	1969	15.00
1965	20.15	1970	30.00
1966	28.00		

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES:

The Public Health Laboratory Service at Chester undertakes free bacteriological examination of milk, water and other specimens for Local Authorities.

Food and Drugs administration is carried out by the Borough Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES:

The Ambulance Service for the District operates under the direction of the County Council with the help of the Chester City Ambulance acting as an emergency service. The Ambulance Depot is at Ellesmere Port.

NURSING IN THE HOME:

Seven full time District Nurses are engaged under the direction of the County Council in Ellesmere Port, all are attached to Group Practices in Ellesmere Port.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES:

These are held at the Clinic Centres at Stanney Lane, Great Sutton, York Road and the Community Centre Little Sutton.

Ophthalmic, Aural, Ante and Post Natal Clinics are organised under the supervision of specialists at Ellesmere Port.

A School Clinic and Dental Service is also held at the Clinic Centres at Stanney Lane and Great Sutton.

The premises at Stanney Lane include the provision of an Adult Training Centre for mentally handicapped adults, as well as a Day Nursery for children under five years.

HOSPITALS:

The Clatterbridge General and Isolation Hospitals in addition to the Ellesmere Port and District Hospital, serve the town for most purposes.

MATERNITY:

Hospital provision is at Clatterbridge, where patients are under the supervision of the Consulting Obstetrician who attends the Ante-Natal Clinics at the Welfare Centres.

In addition there is a separate Maternity Home at Heswall.

MIDWIVES:

There are eleven midwives practising in the District all of whom are employed by the County Council, and attached to the Group Practices.

SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT:

The provisions of the above Act enable a local authority to apply for the compulsory removal to hospital or a County Council Hostel of aged and infirm persons who are in need of care and attention, and who are unable to care for themselves. Much time and patience is devoted to the needs of the aged by a variety of Health Workers and every effort is made to avoid compulsory removal of aged and infirm persons from their own homes.

SUMMARY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

Scarlet Fever	1	Tuberculosis	
Measles	55	(Respiratory)	4
Whooping Cough	1	Infective Jaundice	1
Malaria	1		

Total: 63

WATER SUPPLY:

The Statutory Water Undertaking for the Borough as also the whole of the Wirral is the Wirral Water Board, formed by a re-grouping of previous undertakings in the area.

The water is mainly derived from the River Dee with further sources from boreholes at Prenton and Mouldsworth. The boreholes at Hooton being reserved as a standby for emergencies. Softening operations of these supplies has not been resumed.

It is understood that apart from routine samples of water sent to an independent Analyst for examination, daily samples are also taken for Bacteriological examination by the Board's own Chemist and Analyst.

During the year reports were received in respect of samples taken for Bacteriological examination and chemical analysis from the flamed taps in the softening house of two pumping stations and the Treatment Works at Great Sutton. In each case of those samples examined by the Analyst he indicates the results as of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

The River Dee supply is indicative of a fairly soft water whilst from boreholes is hard in character but stated as not being unduly so.

The following are the replies received from the Engineer to the Board relating to various points raised with him:—

1. No new source of public supply has been introduced during the year.
2. No major improvements of public supply have been carried out.

3. Normal distribution mains extensions for new housing developments.
4. All supplies have been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
5. At the present time adequate supplies are available for domestic purposes.
6. No softening of the Board's borehole supplies has taken place during the year.

Plans are in progress for a complete new Treatment Plant at Sutton Hall, which will be complete in about three years and it is expected to meet the overall increased demand.

No information is available apparently of the fluoride content of the water supply.

CAUSE OF DEATH

		Males	Females	Total
1.	Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	3	-	3
2.	Meningococcal Infection	1	-	1
3.	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity Etc. . . .	-	1	1
4.	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	2	3	5
5.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	7	6	13
6.	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	4	7	11
7.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	34	3	37
8.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	11	11
9.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	6	6
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	-	2
11.	Leukaemia	3	-	3
12.	Other Malignant Neoplasms	14	17	31
13.	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	-	1
14.	Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
15.	Other Endocrine Etc. Diseases	1	2	3
16.	Anaemias	1	-	1
17.	Meningitis	1	-	1
18.	Other Diseases of Nervous System	1	2	3
19.	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	5	6	11
20.	Hypertensive Disease	2	-	2
21.	Ischaemic Heart Disease	85	43	128
22.	Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	14	16
23.	Cerebrovascular Disease	25	22	47
24.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	6	8
25.	Pneumonia	21	17	38
26.	Bronchitis and Emphysema	18	5	23
27.	Asthma	-	1	1
28.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
29.	Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
30.	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1
31.	Cirrhosis of Liver	2	-	2
32.	Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
33.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
34.	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	4	4
35.	Disease of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue	-	1	1
36.	Disease of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	-	1
37.	Congenital Anomalies	4	4	8
38.	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	2	4	6
39.	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1	1
40.	Symptoms and Ill Defining Conditions	1	-	1
41.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	3	9
42.	All Other Accidents	3	2	5
43.	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	1	3
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		259	196	455

Annual Report
of the
Chief Public Health Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1971

To: THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN and COUNCILLORS of
THE BOROUGH OF ELLESMERE PORT.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1971 upon the sanitary circumstances of the Borough as are applicable to the Department and subject to direction by Council.

It has been a busy period with all members of staff fully engaged in the various sections of their work allocated to them.

In the field of housing there is taking place a very active interest in the work of home improvements and repairs which in its implementation cannot help but be of value in maintaining a good standard of house requirements. It is of particular advantage to those people who have expressed a wish to be able to remain in their own locality where many of them have resided for a number of years. This is a welcome sign whereby tenants of accommodation can be given modern amenities for which they have waited for too long a period.

With the ever increasing development and expansion of industry taking place, it is inevitable that close surveillance must be maintained in efforts to ensure that atmospheric pollution is kept to an absolute minimum, otherwise the strenuous efforts made by the Corporation in the promotion of smoke control areas on the domestic front will tend to be stultified. Industry must therefore continue to play an important role to prevent pollution even to the extent of any untoward incidents taking place, that plants should be shut down rather than pollution be taking place over a long period before problems have been resolved. The recording instruments set up by the Department together with those of industry indicate a satisfactory standard and this must not be allowed to deteriorate but to improve. The present overall current levels of smoke and sulphur dioxide can be considered satisfactory when viewed against the typical town and country levels for the North West Region as a whole. A close co-operation is maintained with the Alkali Works and Clean Air Inspector as many processes in industry throughout the Borough are registerable by his Department, and therefore his primary responsibility.

Inspection of food premises has been increased during the year thus enabling steps to be taken wherever necessary to maintain satisfactory standards. The Clean Food Joint Consultative Committee offered information to the Food Standards Committee on the question of Date Coding of Perishable and Short-life Foods. It appears that some tangible efforts are being taken to overcome the difficulties of this vexed question.

Every endeavour has been made to maintain close co-operation with other Departments in those matters likely to concern public health, not only to ensure that standards proposed are acceptable, but also to comply with statutory requirements which are the rightful responsibility of the Department.

The report is presented to indicate the work and duties that are undertaken and it is hoped sufficient reference has been mentioned to meet these requirements. It is obviously not possible to quote in detail the many problems that do arise.

This will be my last report of thirty-two such reports which I have submitted to Committee, as in common with other people the time has arrived for retirement. I therefore would wish to express appreciation to the Committee and Council for the confidence and support shown over the years as also to the Town Clerk and Chief Executive Officer for the guidance and help so readily given to me at all times and to the staff for their efforts who have made this report again possible.

Yours faithfully,

E. TUFT

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Housing

The dominant aspect in housing for which the Department is responsible is that of home improvement which with the more enlightened and progressive outlook by all concerned has invoked a great deal of interest resulting in an upward surge of applications for improvement grants. These figures will be reflected in a succeeding report.

Whilst it is still essential to ensure that every house is in possession of the basic amenities and this must have a first priority the increase in the work relates to houses where for example kitchen areas are of inadequate size, have rising dampness due to inherent defects, poor electrical installations and such like matters. These items can rank for grant assessment provided the dwelling lacks the basic requirements to qualify for grant admission. The dwelling in such cases must then satisfy the twelve point standard when all works are completed and in applying this standard enables applicants to bring forward other additional items for inclusion in the scheme. The object of the scheme is to ensure that dwellings in whatever sector are brought to a satisfactory standard, to remain so for the future with some resemblance to the Parker Morris standard. The Council are enabled to offer seventy-five per cent grant which it is understood will be available until June, 1974 so that it is important to have as many dwellings ranking for improvement to be improved before the closing date and so have the advantage of this increased grant.

The work involved in improvement is very painstaking, requires a great deal of tact in persuing schemes, takes up a lot of time but is rewarding in the end when finally completed. Interim reports at the close of the year have been given to Committee in relation to promotion of possible General Improvement Areas in the Central and Westminster Wards and at the time of writing this report are making a positive approach towards this end.

The proposed General Improvement Area for part of the Stud Farm Housing Estate as mentioned in the report for last year was finally disbanded with Housing Committee and Council deciding to redevelop the area with rehousing of the tenants.

This decision whilst very disappointing to the Department after all the work and effort put into the scheme appeared to be inevitable when taking into account the outcome on the invitations to tender for the work.

Work of improving Corporation dwellings is continuing in those cases which are classified as sub-standard and apart from relets a scheme is in being to complete a whole street. There is also a scheme being prepared for some fifty houses on the Overpool Estate. Every endeavour is being made to improve as many houses as possible working in close association with the Borough Architect and Housing Manager.

Housing Committee during the review year agreed in the first instance to offer the installation of gas central heating to all tenants in nominated pensioners accommodation under the improvement scheme who would wish to have this amenity. To implement this the Borough Architect undertook to have a survey carried out and some four hundred and forty-nine tenants expressed agreement. The work is in course of progress for these dwellings as indeed for any that may become vacant by normal wastage. In those cases where tenants required other forms of heating the Committee subsequently agreed to meet their wishes on the type of installation required with certain reservations.

In relation to the Clayhill Estate at Little Sutton other work was required to the flat accommodation. In addition to the central heating in order to secure compliance with the twelve point standard and a scheme was prepared and accepted for 78 dwellings. Whilst difficulties have been experienced in carrying out the work with the tenant remaining in occupation work is proceeding satisfactorily and every assistance is being afforded by the Department to ensure that disturbance and inconvenience is kept to the absolute minimum. It is pleasing to report that tenants are very appreciative of the work being undertaken and again demonstrates the favourable reaction to improvement schemes.

The total number of Corporation dwellings improved excluding those on the Stud Farm Estate and acquired dwellings is seventy-seven. This work has been entirely carried out by the Direct Labour Section of the Borough Architect and under the circumstances prevailing is considered quite favourable. Dwellings acquired by the Corporation repaired and improved and then taken into the general housing stock would total fifty-nine units. These were all subject to contract.

These figures do not include for the Aldgate bungalows embracing some eighteen units for which a scheme had been previously approved and except for one bungalow completed. This exception is due entirely to domestic circumstances.

The scheme of improvements for a terrace of twenty-three houses in the Central Ward has been resolved and work commenced. This should provide a very useful start to the endeavour being made for the promotion of a General Improvement Area within the locality and it is once again being demonstrated that the people concerned are pleased that something is going to be done for them in the improvement of their homes. The Owners for their part by means of a circular letter have fully explained the scheme and what is involved to their tenants and the co-operation received is appreciated.

If in the making of a General Improvement Area success is to be obtained then it is essential the scheme is fully explained to the people and kept so at all stages with every effort being made to resolve problems as quickly as possible. Schemes may have to be prepared and houses acquired for improvement but as long as the ultimate end is achieved that is all that matters as only by such efforts will an area succeed.

Of the thirty-five applications received from private individuals in respect of improvements four referred to Improvement Grant with thirty-one Standard, two referred to the provision of all amenities, fifteen for internal W.C. one in respect of bath, wash-hand basin and W.C. twelve for bath, wash-hand basin, hot water and W.C., and one wash-hand basin and W.C.

The total amount of grant for approval and payment made during the year totalled £5,093.59. The amount paid to-date since the inception of the scheme is £27,288.35.

In reference to Qualification Certificates one hundred and thirty applications were received, fifty-nine granted, one hundred and seven refused, included in this figure are a number of applications made during the previous year. In relation to the refusals the owners had intimated they were not prepared to put into effect the items of disrepair which had been referred to them following receipt of the applications. Thirty-six applications have also been received which strictly related to provisional certificates, insofar no internal W.C. was available within the dwelling and the applicants were informed accordingly. A scheme was proposed by the Department whereby this amenity could readily be made available within the dwelling at what is considered a reasonable cost and a number have accepted the position and made application for grant on the work. Whilst no work may be commenced until after the Rent Officer has decided and agreed a fair rent it is considered there will be an increase on applications for this amenity.

Detailed inspections have been carried out in those cases of application by sitting tenants to purchase their Corporation dwelling with State and Condition reports being prepared. A schedule of work is also shown in relation to any items of repair which require to be carried out before the sale is completed. Sixty-five such inspections were made.

Inspections have also continued in respect of application to the Corporation for an advance under the Housing Act to acquire privately owned property. This arrangement, whereby applicants must complete all necessary repairs before an advance is made, is considered very satisfactory and does ensure that dwellings are brought to a good state of repair. The number of houses so inspected totalled thirty-one. This is an increase over the previous year.

The number of Corporation houses constructed during the year from figures as supplied by the Borough Architect/Housing Director was one hundred and seventy and five hundred and thirty-four were erected by private enterprise.

Cases of overcrowding or application for re-housing priority in respect of other health reasons are investigated and reported upon to the Housing (Estates) Sub-Committee as found necessary. In this connection four cases were so investigated and of this number two were offered Corporation accommodation. One case was statutorily overcrowded.

In relation to slum clearance no houses were declared and

demolition took place of nine dwellings previously reported upon. These related as follows:

106 Green Lane.

16/24 New Road, Childer Thornton.

7/11 School Lane, Childer Thornton.

There were no applications received for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act. This may be accounted for by the increasing number of Owner/Occupied dwellings and/or tenants being satisfied on the position of repairs and the rent payable by them.

The number of dustbins supplied to property during the year was one thousand and sixty-one of which one hundred and forty-two supplied were subject to an annual charge made upon the property. Fifteen undertakings were cancelled by the Committee on receiving a report in each instance. Action is taken by the Department on Annual Charge as a result of the non-compliance with an Informal Notice served upon the owner requiring him to provide a dustbin or on the initial request of the owners of property. The total number of bins so supplied since the scheme was inaugurated in June, 1950 to the 31st December, 1971 is one thousand six hundred and twenty-four. This is considered to be very satisfactory.

The annual charge for all new undertakings is £00.37.

The type of dustbin in use in the Borough is the B.S.S. 2½ cubic feet being the size now applicable throughout the Borough.

The paper sack is still in use as a container for the reception of refuse in the area covered by the pilot scheme, the maisonettes, multi-storey flats in the Westminster Ward, and the new development of Corporation housing in the Stanlow Ward and Overpool. The scheme for the Rivacre Estate has been extended and operating satisfactorily. Existing dustbins are used as liners.

The tipping of domestic refuse is being undertaken at the Marsh Lane, Ince Site, and controlled tipping is being carried out. It is understood this site has a life of several years. Arrangements are now in operation whereby householders may deposit excess domestic refuse either on the tip at Ince, the Municipal Depot, Rossfield Road or by making special arrangements with the Borough Surveyor's Department for house collection.

Apart from letters of complaint received requesting an inspection of premises two thousand and thirty-seven verbal complaints were made at the office. This shows an increase over the previous years. In addition many enquiries were made to the Department for advice etc., in respect of numerous items as arise within the provisions of the Housing Act or other matters of a character affecting our work.

One thousand seven hundred and seventy-one applications were dealt with for Search Certificates by means of memoranda through the Town Clerk's Department. This is an increase since the last report.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Control of this type of dwelling passed from Public Health Act with the coming into operation of the Caravan Sites and Control of

Development Act, 1960, necessitating a change in procedure in dealing with applications.

The Planning Committee are now charged with granting or refusing planning consent with Health Committee responsible for the issue of site licences following the decision made on the planning aspect. Model standards have been issued by the Ministry in respect of conditions which may be attached to site licences, and the Council have agreed to impose these conditions.

No new applications were received during the year for a site licence.

Food

The responsibilities of the Department involved in the field of food inspection are of some importance embracing as they do all aspects of food handling, food hygiene, food education, clean food practices, sampling of food for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis, food adulterations, and standards of food premises and equipment. It cannot be denied that the absence of any outbreak of food poisoning within the Borough has not in some measure been due to the standard of food hygiene observed over the years throughout all branches of the food trades and catering industries. It is essential this shall not only continue, but improve as circumstances may require. The local authority for their part must continue to ensure a full inspection is undertaken of all food premises whatever the trade may be for there can be no room for complacency.

This involves constant surveillance which it has always been emphasised is an essential factor in the endeavour to ensure satisfactory standards are maintained. In this connection seventy-five informal notices were served during the year under review with nine hundred and four inspections having been made. This level shows an increase over the previous year which was expected to be the case with an increase in staff having taken place. A close co-operation with the trade has been maintained, so essential in the endeavour to obtain a higher standard than legal requirements and is reflected in the manner in which matters are dealt with immediately attention is drawn to them during periodic visits. It has so occurred that in several instances matters have been of a very complex nature not readily resolved yet pleasing to report was not found necessary to consider formal action. Premises which only comply with legal requirements from a structural aspect are well below a standard that should obtain in these enlightened times. It is of course pleasing to report that the standard of food handling throughout the Borough is of a good level.

Whilst the Inspector has powers to enforce measures or steps to be taken by means of legislation his inspection to premises are really made in the first instance in the role of an adviser. This is generally readily accepted with the consequent result problems may be thoroughly discussed with action taken as deemed appropriate.

Temperature control and strict observance of coding structure

play an important part in the prevention of food spoilage and keeping quality. To do so is of benefit to everyone and particularly to the consumer who is the one that really matters otherwise there could be no business.

There are two hundred and twenty-two premises in the Borough registered within the provisions of the Act, and comprise: storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream 144; manufacture and sale of ice-cream Nil; preparation storage and sale of preserved food 78. Two new registration were received during the year in relation to the sale of ice-cream and preserved food, and notification was received in six instances of change of occupancy.

The number of food premises subject to Food Hygiene General) Regulations 1970 grouped in categories of trade in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/72 is as follows:

(i) The number of premises 308

Butcher	27	Snack Bars	5
Bakers	9	Restaurants	6
Grocers	43	Confectioners	15
Supermarkets	23	Factory Canteens	31
General Stores	21	Licensed Premises	42
Fish Friers	20	Confectionery	27
Wet Fish	6	Cafes	6
		Greengrocers	27

- (ii) Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16-308.
- (iii) Number of premises to which Regulation 21 applies – 288.
- (iv) Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 21-288.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the area, or poultry processing establishments.

Four new registrations were made for mobile trading relating to bread and confectionery. Twenty-eight registrations were revoked during the year with the business having ceased to operate, and the total number on the register is twenty-eight.

These figures do not include any traders operating mobile vehicles whilst having shops within the Borough as it is considered registration is not necessary when operating from premises as open shop. One or two traders do operate vehicles.

Inspection is undertaken at various intervals in order to ensure compliance is being maintained with the Regulations etc., with informal notices served as necessary. These have been complied with and no further proceedings taken.

The Committee and Council have resolved a new Public Market which is now under construction and will afford better conditions than hitherto and particularly so that it will be a covered market. The same standard of food hygiene for the food stalls is to be enjoyed by the trade and close co-operation has been maintained with the Borough Architect's Department in an effort to ensure the requirements as laid down are incorporated in the scheme.

Visits have been regularly made to the Council's existing market to ensure food exposed or stored for sale is satisfactory as also to ensure that conditions generally on the market are to a good standard. A total of ten stalls are in use for the sale of food with two mobile vehicles, one retailing ice-cream, the other being operated as a snack bar. Full facilities are provided. The snack bar however discontinued to operate at the outset of the succeeding year.

FOOD HYGIENE

The Clean Food Joint Consultative Committee remains in being and provides a very useful adjunct between the local authority and the food trades in their efforts to provide a decent standard of food handling etc., which after all is for the benefit and well-being of the community as far as responsibilities in food inspection are concerned.

Following the announcement of the Food Standards Committee to undertake a review of date marking of food the opportunity was taken on the invitation to give evidence from the Committee and representations made upon this matter.

It was pointed out in the representation that the Committee had been in operation some twenty years held regular meetings and that on a number of occasions had under consideration the question not only of stock control but a policy of dating or coding of perishable foodstuffs and short shelf-life goods.

Whilst no formal agreement has been made by Committee there had always been unanimity that in principle a universal date coding of pre-packed foodstuffs should be encouraged and the sale or return basis cease.

Attention was drawn to the fact that there is on sale at the present time pre-packed bacon and ham being retailed with a coding date by which it should be sold so that Committee considered a similar set of circumstances could surely prevail for all other perishable foods. It was made quite clear there was no question on the observations given to suggest that food exposed for sale beyond the expiry date was unfit for human consumption and an offence committed but to merely indicate to the consumer a guide line on the freshness or otherwise of the commodity.

It is of course appreciated as indicated in the 1964 report that so much depends not on the date the product was made, but on the quality and freshness of the food and the way in which it is transported or stored. Whilst this is accepted without question there has been in the meantime changes and advancements so that more than ever to-day the food trades both retail and production recognise the need for temperature control of perishable foods through all stages, as also the important need to ensure adequate stock control is undertaken, and as long as these points are kept to the forefront then it is considered date coding for consumption can be undertaken.

At the time of preparing this report it does appear there will eventually be brought into operation a standard on date marking of

food-stuffs as applicable throughout the country. Whilst this will be considered in many quarters as being a forward step in the interests of food hygiene, food spoilage and consumer protection it must not be stultified by the housewife herself in not adhering to clean food practices in the home. This is equally as important as drawing the attention of any trader to unsatisfactory food practices as may be observed. It is not possible for the local authority officer to be always aware of every infringement that is likely to take place so co-operation must be the keynote.

During the year one course of lectures was held in October at which forty-one food handlers attended. Thirty-nine completed the course and received certificates. In addition a course of lectures were given to twenty five food handlers in a factory canteen. It is of interest to record that to-date some 1,592 personnel have completed attendance at the lectures over the period of the scheme from its inception in 1950.

Publicity material in the form of posters obtained from the Ministry were distributed to selected premises at the commencement of the summer period.

The work carried out in the field of educational activities is considered most important from the Public Health aspect, and really forms part of the Inspectors everyday duties with the daily contact with food personnel. This aspect cannot fail to have some beneficial effects.

LICENSED PREMISES

Eighty-one inspections were made of this type of food premises.

The standard of hygiene throughout the Borough compares very favourably and the co-operation afforded is appreciated.

RESTAURANTS, CANTEENS ETC.

Ninety-four routine inspections have been made in connection with this type of business and works of improvement and modernisation carried out. Forty informal notices were served.

The total number of separate restaurants is eleven. There are in addition thirty-one canteens, Eight restaurants are fully licensed.

An extensive use of vending machines is made at one factory and as close attention as possible is undertaken.

Sixty inspections were paid of school canteens, and matters requiring attention referred to the County Council as the appropriate Authority.

The opportunity is always taken during the course of inspection to rectify any errors from a food hygiene aspect which may be observed being committed by personnel and this action proves to be very effective.

FOOD INSPECTION

Forty special visits were paid to food premises at the request of owners to inspect foodstuffs, and the total weight rejected as unfit for human consumption was 15 cwts. 93 lbs.

In each instance the rejected food was disposed of under the supervision of the Department.

Several cases occurred of refrigeration failure, involving rejection of foodstuffs this amounted to 1 ton 4 cwt. 72 lbs.

MEAT INSPECTION

There is one private slaughterhouse in the Borough at Ledsham and one hundred per-cent meat inspection is carried out. Throughput dropped considerably during the period under review so that it was considered necessary with consent of Committee that the Authorised Meat Inspector be withdrawn and engaged on other duties of a clerical nature within the Department which were in arrear due to staff sickness.

The Public Health Inspector remained on full-time duty and is responsible to ensure that at all times regulations are being fully complied with.

The Licence for the premises expired on 31st March of the year and as several matters requiring attention would not it appeared be fully completed by that date a Licence was issued to expire on 30th June of the year. There was however satisfactory completion of the matters referred to and a further Licence was granted for the full period. A close co-operation is maintained with the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry and Joint inspections made.

A report was also submitted to Committee towards the close of the year regarding hours of slaughter, requesting consideration of the matter for a further period of twelve months.

A determination was made that the hours shall operate as previously with the exception that slaughtering on a Saturday shall terminate at noon with no slaughtering on a Sunday. The Occupier appealed to the Minister with the subsequent result that the application was allowed and a direction served that the hours shall remain as heretofore, for a period of six months. This had the effect that the hours remained in being until 21st August, 1972.

Although the occupier of the slaughterhouse received consent on his appeal to carry through the extensions to the slaughterhouse as indicated in last year's report for Phase One no commencement has yet been made and it is not known with any degree of accuracy what is to happen in the future.

Phase one it will be recalled related to provision of offices, toilets, a holding and sales hall and chill rooms.

The maximum charges are in operation as laid down in the Regulations.

The following table relates to meat inspection carried out at this Slaughterhouse during the year.

	Cattle excluding Cows		Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	512	128	1293	26109	16847
Number Inspected	512	128	1293	26109	16847
All Diseases Except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole Carcasses condemned	2	7	36	44	44
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned....	152	79	29	2409	6254
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with di- sease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci	30.8%	67.19%	5.01%	9.39%	37.38%
Tuberculosis Only:					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	261
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.55%
Cysticercosis:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned....	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Total weight rejected was 19 tons 17 cwts. 19 lbs. 4 ozs.

In compliance with the Slaughter of Animals Act eight Slaughtermen's Licences were granted, five by way of renewal with three issued for the first time.

ICE-CREAM

Eighty-one samples of ice-cream were taken for examination during the year as also two lolly ices.

Sampling on a rota basis has been maintained, whereby traders are visited at irregular intervals.

Of the eighty-one samples obtained and examined in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry fifty-one were placed in Grade I: twelve in Grade II: eight in Grade III; and ten in Grade IV.

Action was taken in respect of the samples placed in Grades III and IV which related to ice-cream obtained by the retailers from producers situate outside the Borough, and further samples subsequently obtained.

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream within the Borough.

Attention has been paid to itinerant ice-cream dealers to ensure their vehicles are maintained to standard in accordance with the codes of practice in operation for this type of business.

MILK SUPPLY

There is one registered dairy and eighty-four distributors within the Borough. In addition, two distributors bring milk into the area from an adjacent district, as well as four registered wholesalers. These total figures are similar as for the previous year.

There are seventy milk-vending machines being operated in the district, seventeen by a producer/retailer from farm premises outside the Borough, and fifty-three by a retail dairy undertaking. This is the same as for the previous year. The milk sold is tuberculin tested as now defined untreated and pasteurised.

Milk sampling has continued to be carried out on a rota basis; one hundred and fifty samples were obtained and sent to the bacteriologist for examination, each being examined in accordance with the designation applicable to the sample.

Of the samples so examined five failed the prescribed test, with follow-up work being undertaken and further samples obtained.

Information was received from the County Council in respect of ten samples for Brucella, all of which were negative. There are no farms in the Borough where milk is retailed as untreated.

The Dealers Licences issued authorising the sale of milk for the quinquennial period from 1st January 1971 totals some one hundred and sixty-seven individual cases of milk under designation. One licence may include for various types of milk provided it is intended to be retailed at the time application is made for the licence, and it is so stated.

FOOD AND DRUGS

One hundred and fifty formal and informal samples were obtained by the Department and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. All with one exception were genuine. This related to Pork Sausage submitted for analysis and was deficient in meat content.

SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO PUBLIC ANALYST FOLLOWING COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

No.	Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
1.	Pasteurised Milk	Foreign matter attached to inside of milk bottle.	No formal action taken.
2.	Pasteurised Milk	Foreign matter attached to the outside of the bottle near the lip, consisted of hairs resembling human hair.	No formal action taken.
3.	Pasteurised Milk	Foreign matter loosely attached to inside surface of neck of bottle.	No formal action taken.
4.	Fly in Meat and Potatoe Pie	Chemical tests applied.	No action taken.

5.	Foreign body in pint of pasteurised milk.	The foreign matter which was present consisted of saponifiable oil and iron compounds possibly derived from machinery lubricant.	Case heard at local Magistrates Court 9.12.71. Defendants fined £25. Analyst's Fee £5.50 Advocates Fee £6.00
6.	Assorted Biscuits	Part of one of the biscuits contained a small amount of black material associated with the cream filling. It consisted of charred dough.	No further action taken following investigation made.
7.	Stewed Steak in Rich Gravy.	Foreign matter in stewed steak.	No formal action taken.
8	Large Sliced Loaf	Foreign matter in loaf which was embedded in the crumb, consisted of iron compounds and vegetable oil and resembled machinery lubricant.	Case heard at local Magistrates Court 11.12.71. Defendants fined £10. Analysts Fee £5.50 and £6.00 Advocate's Fee.
9.	Bread Rolls	Foreign Matter in Bread Roll consisted of iron compounds and vegetable oil and resembled machinery lubricant.	Case heard at local Magistrates Court 25.11.71. Defendants fined £20. Analyst's Fee £5.55 and £5. Advocate's Fee.
10.	Drawing Pin in 1/3 pint bottle of milk	Foreign matter in milk consisted of a drawing pin and iron compounds	Case heard at local Magistrates Court 27.1.72. Defendants fined £20. Analyst's Fee £6. Advocates Fee £10.
11.	Black Pudding	Foreign matter consisted of animal hair.	No formal action taken.
12.	New Dairy Custard	Sample of custard containing foreign matter – which consisted of partly burnt starchy material.	No formal action taken.
13.	Beef Casserole	Sample of baby food which contained three pieces of animal tissue having the characteristics of small blood vessels.	No further action taken following investigations.
14.	Processed Peas	Sample of Processed Peas which has undergone biological change.	No formal action taken.
15.	Cumberland Sausage	Sample of Cumberland Sausage containing a fly. Chemical tests indicated that it had not been subjected to excessive heat treatment.	No formal action taken. Letter of caution sent to suppliers.

PARTICULARS OF FOOD COMPLAINTS FROM PRIVATE PURCHASERS

	Nature of Complaint	Remarks
1.	Smell and discolouration of tin of Pork Shoulder	Did not justify further action being taken. Letter sent to Cannery.

2.	Smell and discolouration of tin of Salmon.	No formal action taken. Letter sent to Cannery.
3.	Beetle in tin of Mexicorn.	No formal action taken following investigations made.
4.	Piece of glass in pint of Milk	Not substantiated. Letter sent to dairy.
5.	Foreign body in pint of Milk.	No formal action taken. Letter of caution sent to Dairy.
6.	Bottle top in Steak and Kidney Pie.	Insufficient evidence for formal action. Letter sent to manufacturer.
7.	White substance in Sliced Green Beans.	An edible starch associated in food. No further action taken. Letter sent to Suppliers.
8.	Peculiar smell from tin of Peas.	Due to edible dye – No further action taken. Letter sent to Suppliers.
9.	Mouldy Cheese and Tomato Sandwich.	No formal action taken in the light of evidence available. Letter sent to Suppliers.
10.	Foreign body in Russian Salad.	No formal action taken – Letter sent to Manufacturers.
11.	Peculiar smell from Cod in Butter Sauce.	Insufficient evidence – No formal action taken. Letter sent to Suppliers.
12.	Mouldy condition of Cheshire Cheese Slices.	No formal action taken. Letter sent to Packers and Distributors
13.	Grub inside Easter Egg.	No formal action taken. Letter sent to Confectioners.
14.	Fruit stone found in Black-currant Tart.	No further action taken. Letter sent to Bakery.
15.	Condition of Steak.	Insufficient evidence – No formal action taken. Letter sent to Suppliers.
16.	Foreign substance in Beefburger.	No further action taken following investigation. Letter sent to suppliers.
17.	Sour Dairy Cream.	No formal action taken.
18.	Foreign body in pint of Milk.	No formal action taken. Letter sent to Dairy.
19.	Digestive Biscuits containing foreign body.	No further action taken. Letter sent to Manufacturers.
20.	Condition of Black Pudding.	No formal action taken. Suppliers cautioned.
21.	Strawberry Pie affected by Mould.	No formal action taken. Letter of caution sent to Bakers.
22.	Sour and slight mould growth on Sausages.	Case heard at local Magistrates Court 18.11.71. Defendants fined £10. Analysts Fee £5. Advocates Fee £6.
23.	Strong Smell from Packet of Bacon.	No action taken following investigation. Letter sent to Suppliers.
24.	Mouldy pack of full fat soft cheese.	No further action taken on investigation. Letter sent to Suppliers.
25.	Grub in a packet of Crumble Cream	Not substantiated – No further action taken.
26.	Mould growth – Baked Beans.	No formal action taken. Letter sent to suppliers.

27.	Wasp in Milk Chocolate Toffee.	No formal action taken. Letter sent to Confectioner.
28.	Foreign Body in a Ginger Snap Biscuit.	No further action taken. Letter sent to suppliers.
29.	Mouldy Danish Pastry.	No formal action taken. Letter of caution sent to Suppliers and Bakers.
30.	Condition of loaf of Bread.	No formal action taken. Letter of caution sent to Bakers.
31.	Mouldy Tub of Cheese and Tomato Spread.	No formal action taken. Letter sent to Suppliers.
32.	Substance in 8 oz. Wholemeal Cob.	No formal action taken. Letter of caution sent to Bakers.
33.	Glass in Jar of Tongue Paste.	No formal action taken — (incomplete evidence). Letter sent to Suppliers.
34.	Foreign object in Jar of Blackcurrant Jam.	No formal action taken.

The number of complaints over the year show quite a decrease over that for the previous period. It is hoped that this may be due to an improvement in the position as affecting the trade rather than the public having not complained to the same extent.

Details of complaints received are shown with each as previously indicated being investigated, statements are taken, trader and as applicable producer or manufacturer interviewed who are then given the opportunity to examine the article of food subject to complaint, with finally a full report being prepared. Should the article be imported then the importers are approached and requested to contact the producers and/or packers for an explanation and the action taken.

In dealing with these complaints it must be appreciated a great deal of the Inspector's time is spent on the ensuing investigation to prevent a repetition. This basically more than meets the wishes of individuals who really desire Local Authority Officers to undertake representation and not just specifically to institute legal proceedings.

Clean Air

Ten Smoke Control Areas are at present in force with area No. II coming into operation on 1st October, 1972. This is in accordance with the phased programme of smoke control for the Borough.

Smoke Control Area No. II cover 604.30 acres (244.56 Hectares) or thereabouts and contains approximately some 1,277 houses together with other premises. Works of survey and conversion of appliances; has proceeded during the year.

A report was submitted to Health Committee on the availability of solid smokeless fuels following receipt of a Circular on this subject from the Department of Environment in which Local Authorities were advised that the amount of solid smokeless fuel available for the domestic market during the Winter of 1971/72 was likely to be a good deal more than 1970/71. Given all but an exceptional Winter, supplies of solid smokeless fuel seemed likely to be fully adequate to meet consumer demand, and it was not expected therefore that there would be any need for the suspension or deferment of smoke control orders.

Authorities operating smoke control programmes were nevertheless advised to continue to keep in touch with their Regional Officer of the Solid Smokeless Fuels Federation in order to receive information about the particular situation — present and future — in their own areas as also help to ensure effective local planning of supplies.

The Circular quoted also indicated that the Secretary of State hoped Authorities who during the past two or three years had reduced or discontinued their smoke control programme would now resume them energetically. In particular he was anxious to see good progress in “black areas” and accordingly all “black areas” authorities were asked to review their programmes and consider whether more rapid progress could be made.

At the time of the receipt of this request to review programmes Health Committee had already given instructions for a report to be prepared on the present smoke control programme for the Borough including proposals for dealing with the Stanney/Wolverham area.

This decision followed a report on the outcome of a public meeting attended by several members of the Council and householders within the Stanney housing estate, when amongst other matters and complaints discussed a request was made to give consideration for the area being brought under smoke control earlier than would obtain under the existing programme.

It was submitted to Committee that some special consideration should be given as considerable improvement would no doubt arise in having this area smoke controlled. To do so would clearly demonstrate to householders the distinction between industrial and domestic pollution and it appeared the time was opportune to move forward with confidence. The position from a general industrial point of view was showing some improvement and any problems arising would continue to receive the active attention of the Department in close

association with the District Alkali Works Inspector as many of the industrial undertakings in the area are registerable processes. The public meeting spot-lighted the need not only for special consideration to bring the area under smoke control but also to continue with constant surveillance of industry particularly with the ever increasing development taking place.

A recommendation was made to Health Committee to amend the programme and it was agreed that the remaining areas be accelerated by bringing forward Stanney and making some amalgamation of the remainder. This enabled to plan the Stanney Estate to come under control in 1974 to be followed with two further areas Nos. 13 and 14. This will then complete the programme.

The Council have continued to offer a choice to tenants' of Local Authority dwellings in smoke control areas a system of partial central heating where works of conversion are to be carried out. Tenants have been appreciative of this scheme and many have availed themselves of the opportunity for this type of installation. Housing Committee have also extended this facility to their dwellings which were not previously offered central heating i.e. in the earlier smoke control areas.

Support for the establishment of Smoke Control Areas continues to be given by the public with enquiries being received in the Department requesting information when particular parts of the Borough will become smoke controlled. It is considered that to make smoke control fully effective control must be exercised in suppressing the practice of the indiscriminate bonfires burning garden rubbish as also lighting fires embracing development sites. Such cases can and do cause considerable smoke nuisance and to say the least are as anti-social as smoking. A number of complaints were received and action taken as appropriate.

The control of industrial pollution is continually under surveillance in the Borough with routine inspection of industrial plant and observations of emissions to atmosphere.

Close contact is maintained by the Department with factory management and engineers so that any problem found on observation and investigation can be dealt with quickly. Experience shows that liaison of this kind continues to be of great value in resolving problems both to the Local Authority and industry.

Work on the erection of a new pulverised fuel boiler at one large industrial solid fuel fired plant referred to in the last report was completed during the year. Initial problems of dust control have been experienced notwithstanding that modern dust collection equipment was included in the design and representations have been made to the Company concerned as also the District Alkali Works Inspector to have the problems resolved being a registerable process.

The problems of noise and dust emission from mechanical handling of imported chemicals have been under investigation by the Department, but the solution was delayed by extensive fire damage. It

has however been the subject of further negotiations with the Company concerned and the construction of new storage premises to deal with. this matter is now in progress.

The Clean Air Act provides that all new furnaces shall so far as practicable be capable of being operated continuously without emitting smoke when burning fuel of a type for which the plant was designed and notice of the proposed installation must be given to the Local Authority. Eighteen Notices of Proposal to install such furnaces were received and accepted by the Committee during the year.

In addition to the above requirement to the Clean Air Act, 1968 makes it an offence in the case of a new chimney or the enlargement or replacement of a furnace if the furnace is used without having obtained the approval of the Local Authority for the height of the chimney. This applies to chimneys serving furnaces burning pulverised fuel and solid matter at a rate of one hundred pounds or more an hour or any liquid or gaseous fuel at a rate equivalent to one and a quarter million Btu's. or more an hour.

Discussions are held with Architects, Engineers and Developers when plans are submitted in order to draw attention to these requirements and to the memorandum on stack heights for design purposes.

During routine inspections of industrial plant the opportunity continues to be taken of emphasising the need for efficient schemes of incineration. Plant designed for this purpose must be of adequate size and fitted with effective primary and after burners to consume smoke and prevent nuisance.

As referred to in the last report investigations were carried out into a proposed industrial incinerator complex originally designed to burn a low sulphur content fuel, but later extended to deal with more specialised types of waste which brought the proposal under the control of the Alkali Works Inspector and joint consultations were held for a report in detail to the Council's Planning Committee. No further development has occurred with this proposed incinerator complex. In the light of the impending legislation on disposal of toxic wastes however no doubt more reliance will be placed upon incineration as a means of disposal and it will therefore be more important than ever that effective control be exercised under the Alkali etc., Works Regulations to avoid nuisance from any such incinerator complex.

Close liaison is being maintained with Technologists and the Alkali Works Inspector in relation to the large oil refineries and chemical industries located in the Borough. The fullest co-operation is being given to the Department by the District Alkali Works Inspector on the control of emission from these industries.

Problems associated with the final stage of new chemical plant at Ince Marshes have not yet been entirely resolved, notwithstanding the amount of work put into the process by the Company. This is a complex and technologically sophisticated plant with large horse-power machinery and extreme conditions of temperature and pressure, the

Company however continues to give the Department full co-operation in tackling any problems of gaseous emission or noise which arise.

Large scale extensions to refinery processes have continued in the Borough and the opportunity has been used to emphasise the importance of air pollution control measures at the design stage.

Considerable work has been carried out during the year into complaints of particulate matter affecting houses in parts of the Stanney Housing Estate.

Observations have been undertaken and grit slides extensively used. A number of these grit slides have been examined in conjunction with an industrial undertaking using bright field and polarising microscopy techniques.

Some of the material identified included, oil, soot, insect parts, fibres, particles of both natural and artificial origin, coal, lignite, iron oxide, plant fragments, sodium carbonate and wood fragments. With this type of investigation wind and weather conditions play an important part and results can be inconclusive.

Extensive investigations have been carried out and detailed discussions held with industry in connection with this problem of particulate matter, immediate action has been taken on receipt of any complaint and full co-operation has been afforded to the Department by industry in the area. Surveillance of the area for this aspect of pollution control is continuing.

The Borough Council is a co-operating body with the Warren Spring Laboratory, Air Pollution Division, and two daily smoke filter and SO₂ are maintained by the Department. One instrument is sited in the Town Centre, the other in a residential area of the Borough. In addition four instruments at the request of the Department are operated by Industrial Undertakings, three in the Stanlow Area and one in North Road area. This co-operation is greatly appreciated and affords some indication of pollution levels.

The Annual Summary shows the following results from Sites Nos. 2 and 7 operated by the Department.

	Smoke	SO ₂	Smoke/SO ₂ Ratio
Ellesmere Port No. 2			
Summer	25	65	.60
Winter	45	81	.59
Year	35	73	.50
Ellesmere Port No. 7			
Summer	57	133	.33
Winter	82	140	.60
Year	70	165	.51

Units expressed in microgrammes/cu. metre.

General

NOISE

Investigations have taken place in regard to problems of noise emanating from industrial premises and commercial buildings with action being taken as found applicable. In two cases involving industry the nuisance arose as a result of malfunctioning of equipment which in itself is of a complex character making it nigh impossible to prevent noise under such circumstances. The Companies concerned instituted a noise level survey engaging consultants to undertake the work. This was done in an effort to distinguish the levels between that obtaining and background noise levels.

It must be appreciated that the British Standard lays down criteria whereby an increase above which is likely to cause annoyance a lower increase could well indicate a creeping background which would require attention.

Whilst every effort must be made to control or reduce noise levels the fact remains that the predominant source of noise in Towns is that from road traffic over which the Department has no control. It is considered there is a need for more adequate measures to deal with the aspect. The use of road drills and other constructional equipment operating adjacent to residential property can be of severe nuisance without the use of muffles or adoption of measures to reduce levels and efforts are made in this connection as occasion warrants to secure co-operation from those concerned.

Of the several complaints received in relation to commercial premises action was taken on an informal basis with satisfactory outcome.

In any new development that is proposed attention is drawn to the Developers as appropriate to give close consideration to noise levels. Industry for its part appear very concerned to ensure there shall not be any noise problems and are aware of the need to undertake that they shall be within acceptable limits.

DRAINS AND SEWERAGE

The new pollution control works located at Stoak in the adjacent Rural area were completed and officially opened in October of the year. They are of conventional biological filtration design, with final effluent re-circulation, and sludge produced being treated by chemical conditioning followed by sludge pressing. They are designed to deal with a population of 76,000 persons and a dry-weather flow, inclusive of trade-waste discharges of four million gallons per day. Provision is made for the future extension of these works as necessary to deal with a dry-weather flow of up to twelve million gallons per day.

The Town and Little Stanney Treatment Works have both been abandoned. Five new storm-water tanks however, have been constructed on land adjacent to the Town Pumping Station, in order to limit to three times dry-weather flow the maximum rate of flow of sewage pumped from the Town to Stoak.

The Cleansing of choked house drains are referred in the first instance to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department when arrangements are made for plunging and rodding. Notices are served upon owners where drainage cannot be cleared by this method and the ground has to be opened up.

Ninety-five notices were served during the year for defective drainage. All notices were complied with.

The routine cleansing of cesspools is undertaken by the Council through the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department together with a service for the periodic de-sludging of septic tanks.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are two swimming pools owned by the Corporation the open air pool at Rivacre and the indoor pool at Stanney Lane.

The water in both cases is obtained from the Wirral Water Board mains being of the same quality as drinking water and is treated by continuous bath purification plant. In the case of the open air pool this involves rapid sand filtration whilst with the other modern pre-coat filters. Chlorination equipment installed capable of achieving break-point standard.

A total of eighty-seven samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination during routine working.

SCHOOLS

At the close of the year there were two County Grammar Schools, one County Comprehensive four County Secondary, twenty-eight Primary, Junior/Infants and nine Denominations Schools in the Borough.

All schools are provided with individual closet accommodation together with necessary facilities.

Several routine visits have been made and action taken as appropriate.

One school in the Borough utilizes rooms at another building to accommodate overspill.

PET ANIMALS

There are six premises in the Borough Licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Act, all in relation to shops and are satisfactory.

In addition one licence has been issued in respect of an Animal Boarding Establishment.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The Borough Council is responsible for the administration of the Act being the Local Authority as defined for the purpose and sixty inspections were made during the year.

FACTORIES

Factory development continues in the Borough and close attention is given to all aspects of Public Health Control. This work at the planning stage is considered to be very important as some of the

development is extensive in character and problems resolved at this stage show advantages later on.

It is noticeable that in some instances a high standard of health and welfare facilities is the aim of new factories and some excellent schemes have been provided.

Two undertakings obtain a water supply from deep bores for which approval has been given in accordance with the requirements of the Factories Act. Samples of water are obtained at regular intervals for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. One undertaking by mutual consent discontinued the use of bore-hole water as a potable supply at their factory. A mains supply is now in use.

The water supply to one undertaking is extensive and complex in character and reports on samples are received weekly. Close liaison is maintained with the Company and a comprehensive scheme of samples is carried out.

The support and assistance afforded by the Public Analyst in the examination and control of these water supplies is greatly appreciated.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. Inspections:—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	112	107	14	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	19	19	1	Nil
TOTAL	133	126	15	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	8	8	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	7	7	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	21	21	—	—	—

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

The main provisions of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act came into operation on the 1st August, 1964 this legislation being designed to improve the safety, health and welfare facilities in these premises.

A register of the premises affected by the Act has to be maintained by the Department and the number of premises included on the register at the end of the year are as follows:—

Offices	134
Retail Shops	241
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	5
Catering Establishments open to the Public	38
Fuel Storage Depot	—
Total	418

The analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace is given below:—

Offices	1499
Retail Shops	1471
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	37
Catering Establishments open to the Public	427
Canteens	74
Fuel Storage Depot	—
Total	3508

The total figure is made up of 1,507 males and 2,001 females.

There were seven accidents notified during the year under review, none of which as a result of an investigation made in each case necessitated any formal action being taken. When applicable recommendations are made to occupiers of premises in an endeavour to prevent any further incidents.

In the course of routine inspection thirty-four letters were sent to occupiers and fifteen Verbal Notices were given. None remained outstanding at the close of the year.

The opportunity has been taken during routine inspections to remind occupiers of their obligation to report accidents under Section 48 of the Act. Apart from the larger organisations it does appear that occupiers require to be reminded of their responsibilities on accidents.

So far as the operation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (Hoists and Lifts) Regulations is concerned special attention has been paid to hoists and lifts during routine inspections. To the present time it has been found that occupiers readily comply with the provisions of the regulations in the Borough and is pleasing to report

that more frequent Engineer's Inspections have been taking place than just the minimum requirement as laid down.

The Borough is of course a rapidly expanding area with modern development and to this extent old type installations are not being encountered.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Copies of Certificates of Registration under the provisions of the Radioactive Substances Act are forwarded to Local Authorities by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in respect of establishments in the Borough using radioactive substances.

In each case visits are paid to the industry concerned and close liaison maintained with their technical staff in order that the Department is kept aware of developments in this field.

OIL HEATER REGULATIONS

The Department is responsible for the operation of these regulations and visits have been made to premises covered by the legislation to ensure that the requirements of the regulations were understood and complied with.

PEST CONTROL

This section has continued to be very active being fully engaged in all aspects not only of rodent control but also in connection with insect pests and measures of control of an avian nature.

It is pleasing to report that full co-operation has been maintained and with the growth of the Borough particularly from an industrial point of view has resulted in further contracts being entered into for clearance of premises. Several have involved eradication of pests other than rodents. Where the circumstances warrant such action it is recommended to have an all embracing contract.

A free service has continued in respect of rat infestation at domestic property and advice given whenever requested in any instance affecting mice.

Apart from routine work one hundred and two complaints were received for rat infestation and one hundred and twenty-four in relation to mice.

5423 Inspections were carried out by the rodent operatives with 818 poisoning campaigns undertaken. The total amount of 'poison take' i.e., poison and bait combined, on all campaigns was: Zinc Phosphide 10 lbs. 8½ ozs. Arsenic 19 lbs. 8½ ozs.: Warfarin 0.5 per cent 451 lbs. 12 ozs.: Soluble Warfarin 425 quarts.

The use of soluble warfarin in industrial premises has been found to be most successful and of some advantage over other poisons, particularly where very dry conditions are evident.

The formula prepared by the Ministry for the calculation of the estimated kill of the common rat when Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic are used shows that in respect of these two poisons in campaigns a total kill of 1202 is arrived at for the year.

In accordance with the arrangements made it was not necessary

to undertake test baiting of sewer manholes throughout the area. This showed a saving in expenditure and demonstrated the success of the work previously carried out in this connection.

A number of treatments have been carried out at industrial and other premises in relation to infestation of ants, cockroaches, etc., such work being undertaken on a Clearance or Annual Contract basis. Work in the case of domestic dwellings is done as a free service and complaints generally show a considerable increase.

In respect of infestation with bed-bugs the number of houses dealt with during the year is as follows:—

(a)	Corporation houses	9
(b)	Other houses	4
(c)	Number disinfested	13
(d)	Total visits	48

Infested houses were treated with liquid and powder forms of D.D.T. with satisfactory results. It is not generally considered necessary to have woodwork removed in the bedroom to facilitate disinfestation, due to the residual effect of D.D.T.

Whilst the affected number is small it is rather surprising to have any at all taking into consideration that suitable insecticides are so readily available to the public from retail shops.

Close contact has been maintained with Senior Inspector, Infestation Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at Liverpool, and the help and support particularly in connection with identification of various species is greatly appreciated.

Spraying with a suitable insecticide has also been carried out following complaints received of nuisance by mosquito and midge breeding. Whenever possible cleansing of ditches has been undertaken by the Owners, although where new development is concerned it is essential that all ditches shall be piped.

